FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Supplement

Near East & South Asia

IRAN:
Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-93-062-S
Friday
2 April 1993

Near East & South Asia
SUPPLEMENT
IRAN
Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-93-062-S *2 April 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions 1
* 14 Feb *[15 Feb]* 1
* 15 Feb *[17 Feb]* 3
* 17 Feb *[18 Feb]* 7
* 23 Feb *[24 Feb]* 10

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 14 Feb

93LA0003A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Feb 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from Shiraz, Zanjan, Lanjan, and Tehran gave speeches. Then the speaker of the Majles gave a speech in which he discussed the various dimensions of the presence of millions of people at the 22 Bahman [11 February] demonstration march. Then the Majles took up its agenda.

It is worth mentioning that because of the importance of the remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri's and Engineer Bahonar, the text of those talks was published in yesterday's issue. We now direct the attention of you esteemed readers to the deliberations of the Majles. [passages omitted on budget ratifications, to be published under separate report]

Karim Zare', Deputy From Shiraz

The instances of obtaining new technology in the second Five-Year Plan include strengthening the cultural and Islamic foundation in the schools and universities.

Continuing, the speaker offered congratulations on the coincidence of the Fajr Decade with the birth anniversary of His Holiness Mahdi (may God hasten his joyful advent), and while thanking the people for their extensive turnout at the 22 Bahman march, he discussed the ways to obtain new technology in the country. He said: Attention to the luminous verses of the Glorious Koran concerning the importance of knowledge and learning, which are the tools for obtaining new technology, is the way to open our path in all phases of life. Therefore attention and priority in economic development planning, especially in the second Five-Year Plan, will play a key role in learning these things and in university learning to achieve the slogan of freedom, independence, and Islamic Republic. Special priority should be given to concern for the following areas in the second Five-Year Plan, in order to obtain new technology:

1. Strengthening the cultural and Islamic foundation in the schools and centers of higher education.

2. Strengthening the government and nonprofit schools

3. Strengthening government and nongovernment universities.

4. Creating and improving libraries in the cities and rural areas.

5. Developing the expert guidance and doctoral programs in the universities that have potential talent.

6. Utilizing the abilities of the public in developing centers of higher learning.

7. Holding academic congresses with high content in national and international form in order to learn about the latest achievements internationally and in Iran.

8. Creating joint doctoral programs in the universities with the cooperation of researchers in friendly countries.

9. Providing a livelihood for students and young researchers.

10. Creating a ministry of sciences and research.

11. Removing the existing obstacles to raising the academic level in the universities and research centers and approving problem-solving laws in this regard.

Continuing, the deputy from Shiraz discussed the problems in his electoral district, as follows:

1. The construction of a southern railroad to go through Esfahan, Shiraz, and Bushehr will bring us about 400 km closer to the sea.

2. The construction of the Esfahan-Shiraz freeway.

3. The development of intercity and rural roads, in view of the fact that the province of Fars is a deprived area in terms of roads.

4. The development of industries in the province of Fars, especially rural and traditional industries, in view of the fact that the unemployment rate in the province of Fars is high.

5. Encouraging capable and civic-minded people to invest in public interest activities.

6. Spiritual and material attention to retirees and those nearing retirement.

7. The creation of a police station in the Sa'diyeh section of Shiraz.

9. Dealing decisively with criminals.

10. Greater concern on the part of officials for helping flood victims in Fars Province. [passage omitted on historical accounts of Islam]

Ahmad Hakimipur, Deputy From Zanjan

Justice must be observed in the distribution of the nation's material and spiritual resources.

The next speaker was Ahmad Hakimipur, from the Zanjan electoral district. [passage omitted on anniversary and accomplishments]

The speaker also said: In my view, if we look for solutions in the two main areas of the development process, we can overcome to a great extent the imbalances in various areas.

1. In the area of distribution, justice must be observed in all the nation's material, spiritual, potential, and actual resources.

2. In the area of political participation, the participation of the public in their political fate must be prepared with each step of economic development, because today's world is filled with the practical and bitter experiences of countries who moved hastily towards economic development without attention to political and cultural development. He said: The executive burden of a huge country like Islamic Iran is too heavy for one group or faction to bear alone.

Continuing, the deputy from Zanjan discussed the completion of the study of the 1372 [21 Mar 93-20 Mar 94] Budget Bill by the Majles. He said: A basic reappraisal must be made of our way of making and writing the nation's budget so that, God forbid, we will not be captive to imposed haste due to the limitations on how and in wha. way the budget will take shape in the Majles, and so that a comprehensive study will be made in the Majles, as it should be done. It is recommended that reforms be made in this matter, with cooperation between the government and the Majles.

Continuing his remarks, Hakimipur then thanked the people of his electoral district for electing him. He said: Despite the fact that our province has very high potential in water, soil, agriculture, roads, and higher education, unfortunately appropriate attention has not yet been given to it. A province whose larger cities attract immigrants from about five provinces must be given more attention than this.

He added: Recently, along with the respected government's clear policy of avoiding increasing the government's size and the nation's administrative system, unfortunately some ministries and executive organizations have taken steps to fragment province management in some general offices. As I have said directly to some ministries, it is also announced right here that as long as the province of Zanjan, with all of its parts and its geography, is managed as a one-group province under one central office, any kind of fragmentation of the province's management is condemned, and we see this as being counter to the interest of Islamic society. I call upon the province's management to exercise its management decisively in all of the province's cities and districts, and to oppose vigorously any kind of agitation of the public mood. Wouldn't it be a good thing, instead of spending our energy on these kinds of things and wasting the province's capabilities, if we thought about strengthening and advancing this deprived area? These very issues have been taken as the pretext for a local publication whose concession-holder is not a resident of any city in the province and who lives in another part of this country of ours, to fan the flames of antinationalist prejudices by raising divisive issues and repeatedly insulting the residents of the province, in order thereby to build a market for his sales.

The speaker then discussed the province's executive management, which has brought about stagnation in the work of the province by resorting to factionalism. He said: It is the bad effects caused by the performance of these kinds of people that have caused utilization of less than 50 percent of the 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] development budgets. Who can explain all these weaknesses in the province's development performance? In answer to the question of why the deputy governor general of Zanjan for political affairs made a special trip to a foreign country, which had nothing to do with his specialist work, should this gentleman ridicule the representative of the people? Have the accounts of the public treasury gotten so out of hand that special trips have become a means of personal entertainment, to be spent by some individuals without responsibility?

People like this must realize that ridiculing the representative of the people is really an insult to the constituents who have voted to give the responsibility of guarding political rights to their representative. If these people do not change their behavior, they will be dealt with appropriately, and they must be warned that it will not be that difficult for the mobilization to break up these poisoned environments.

Mohsen Kuhkan, Deputy From Lanjan

Turning over the work to the people is precisely for the purpose of implementing the commands of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) and the exalted leader.

Mohsen Kuhkan, deputy from Zarrinshahr and Fulad-e Mobarakeh, was the next speaker. [passage omitted]

Continuing his remarks, he then offered condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the crash of the passenger aircraft, especially the respected speaker of the Majles.

Kuhkan then announced the following points for the awareness of the Muslim nation of Iran:

1. Since during his blessed life His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) told the prime minister of the time, Mr. Musavi, that work that can be done by both the government and the people must be done by the people, turning over work to the people, which is one of the policies of the respected and beloved president of the republic, is precisely aimed at implementing the commands of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) and the exalted leader, and any words of opposition and narrow-mindedness are rejected. Definitely the respected Majles and the dear deputies of the Majles will be closely following the speeches and interviews. Of course it is important to remember that care and alertness must be exercised in finding a proper mechanism for turning over work to the people.

2. It is clear to everyone that success in all areas, especially the successful conversion to a single foreign exchange rate, achieving economic prosperity and implementing social justice requires many tools, and among the most important issues are the existence of believing, concerned and in-step managers in both word and deed at the head of the nation's executive system who are ultimately behind the exalted leader and who are of one

heart and headed in the same direction as the respected president of the republic Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. I hope that the respected future cabinet, which will be rightfully elected with a careful examination and sensitivity by the respected Majles, will have such characteristics in every sense.

3. Sometimes it is seen or heard during inspections by high-level executive officials, especially of the nation's industrial and productive centers, that not the least attention is paid to the cultural issues of the site being inspected, such as attendance at religious gatherings like congregational prayers, visits to models of patience and resistance, wounded veterans, the exalted families of martyrs and the dear former prisoners of war, and everything is for production. I remind these dear officials clearly, our model and your model must be the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, who spends several hours visiting a number of these people in a sanitorium who have sacrificed. Of course work, effort and production in the Islamic government to achieve self-sufficiency is itself a value, but one value must not be sacrificed for a higher value. It is desirable to preserve all the values.

4. When a person sees the sensitivity of some of the nation's publications and newspapers concerning foreign policy, who even demand explanations on seminars previously held which had nothing to do with the Foreign Ministry, and even expect a position to be taken with regard to the responsible and irresponsible words and speeches, one wonders why these types of newspapers are silent during a gathering held in New York, of mayors from around the world, where, the mayor of Tehran also participated and was well-received by the respected host. Why is it then that these newspapers are silent when sometimes in speechs giving aid to developing countries are discussed and they make the news the subject of headlines in their newspapers, what judgment must be made? [as published] There is no question that giving a green light to America is distasteful and against the interest of this revolution, when it comes from the other faction, or else it is praised by selfish people.

In another part of his speech he discussed the splendid welcome given by the people of the province of Esfahan to the respected president of the republic, and he added: Here it is appropriate that I offer thanks for the labors of those province executive managers, who are not few in number, who spend all of their time working for the people, and some thought and decisions must be made for the few who have climbed up the ladder of factionalism and have done nothing but political work and making the people unhappy.

The speaker added: I direct the attention of the nation's executive planners to the numerous problems of the people of the municipalities of Lanjan, Zarrinshahr, and Mobarakeh, which are caused by the buildup of large industries in two municipalities. Although I am not denying the thousands of national benefits from these centers, and they benefit the entire nation, along with these thousands of benefits, the handful of problems such as environmental pollution, heavy immigration into the area, the failure to respond on the part of the executive organizations, especially the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Health Care and Treatment concerning physical education, and the absence of officials in charge of education and propaganda are important to the people, and a percentage of these problems will be eliminated through the active participation of the area's industries and through a good-neighbor policy, and in the recent trip by the exalted president of the republic to the municipalities of Zarrinshahr and Mobarakeh, he also emphasized that these centers should assist and confer favor on the region.

At the end of his speech, Kuhkan asked for help from the minister of petroleum in the establishment of gas delivery service to the area's villages, in accordance with national budget legislation for the year 1372.

Majles Notes

After a recess of several days, the Majles resumed its activities yesterday, and, as usual, the respected deputies pursued their work seriously. The product of yesterday's work by the respected deputies was the study and consideration of eight pieces of legislation, which included legislation to amend the Standards Law.

Article 9 says: The production, centralization and sale of goods subject to obligatory standards is prohibited at quality levels lower than the standards level after the expiration of the grace period, and the violator will be sentenced to prison for a period of one month to two years, in addition to a cash fine from 10,000 to 5 million tomans.

It must be realized that the consumption and distribution of nonstandard goods entails great risk, and it has taken the lives of many consumers, guilty and innocent. Some profit-seeking and greedy people wishing to get rich overnight are the main causes of the distribution and spread of these kinds of goods, and they endanger the health and lives of many people, and this law and others like it will stop the spread of these kinds of profiteering and law-breaking individuals. After the final enactment, it will be up to the appropriate executive organizations to enforce these kinds of laws in the best way.

*** 16 Feb**

93LA0004A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Feb 93 p 5

[Boldfacing within slantlines supplied by FBIS]

[Excerpts] Legal and Legislative Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Naieq-Nuri, and the deputies from Sari, Ramhormoz, Shadegan, and Tangestan gave speeches. Then

the Majles took up its agenda, the details of which are presented below for our esteemed readers.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

[Passages omitted: Nateq-Nuri praises aid given by various groups to flood areas]

In a speech during yesterday's open Majles session, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri began by talking about the flooding in 11 of the nation's provinces. He added: This event caused great damage, and because it coincided with the blessed Days of Fajr, there was little opportunity to assess the depth and extent of the losses.

Continuing, he said: With the prior knowledge that the executive officials obtained through the meteorological organization, they made arrangements to prevent or minimize the losses by sending assistance in the form of ten, 330 and 747 type aircraft, 20 helicopters, and 100 boats. The damages are not small. In the housing area, about 55,000 housing units have been destroyed. In the agricultural sector 100,000 hectares of agricultural land were destroyed. The value of the 371 damaged units has been estimated at 33 billion rials.

More than 11,000 km of main and secondary rural and tribal roads were destroyed, along with a number of bridges and watercourses. In the livestock and animal husbandry sector, 189 head of livestock were destroyed, a loss of 8 billion rials. In the infrastructure sector, 1,500 underground canals, tens of water, electricity, and telephone networks, a great many high-voltage electrical antennas, and more than 900 km of flood breakers and earth dams were destroyed.

Seyyed Hasan Shoja'i Kiasari, Deputy From Sari

I remind the Ministry of the Interior to have reverence for the common people in their process of decision making

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Seyyed Hasan Shoja'i Kiasari, deputy from Sari. He said to the people because of their extensive turnout at the 22 Bahman [11 February] march: I say right here to the great government and the ministers of the cabinet that this great nation deserves praise and adulation, and it is fitting for each of you, from within your organization, to look out for the rights of the people. I say especially to the Ministry of the Interior, which creates sensitivity in the minds of the people more than any of the others to make respect for the common people something of a criterion in decisionmaking, and not to make decisions with complete disregard for their feelings.

He added: In selecting the governor general of the agriculturally rich province of Mazandaran, in one sense the minister of the interior is connected to the entire country, and it must be said that if this province is revived the nation will become rich and powerful. He has paid no attention to the feelings of the people and the desires and will of the deputies, the Friday imams, and the congregation. I don't know what language or words to use to convey this strong complaint and penetrate the ears and the mind of this great man.

Continuing, the speaker said to the minister of the interior: Dr. Kalantari, has it not occurred to you that a people who depend on their own barley and wheat crops for their entire annual incomes are dependent on their own agriculture?

I thank the minister of industries, who in the month of Bahman [21 Jan-19 Feb] spent hours traveling difficult mountain roads despite the snow and rain in order to think about employment in this area.

I say to the minister of roads and transportation, my brother Mr. Saidi-Kia, in the matter of the construction of the Kiasar-Semnan road, you have paid no attention to the fact that your contractors are not working, and the road has turned out in the old way, like a dirt road.

He also said to the minister of roads: You must order that measures be taken quickly on the Zarand and Sari beltway road, which is most necessary, and it is also necessary for the heavy traffic of the transit roads.

Continuing, the deputy from Sari issued a memo to the minister of petroleum asking him not to be a minister just in the summer, because the people also need fuel in the winter.

He issued a memo to the Ministry of the Reconstruction Crusade about inspecting the reconstruction crusade in the municipality of Sari, and then he noted: The minister of power has promised repeatedly to provide electrical power to the deprived area of Chahardanakeh, but at the same time the task is delayed every year because of the lack of credits.

In conclusion, Shoja'i thanked and praised the exalted leader for his remarks about the situation in the seminaries and the clergy, and he said: In the same regard, a careful look must be taken at the voices being raised to weaken this great Islamic bastion (the seminaries) from the universities or in the name of the universities, which are speaking in unison with world imperialism.

In conclusion, the speaker noted: The government and the Majles should allocate credits for the lack of development of the war-stricken provinces. Unfortunately, recently the president of the republic's Office of Deprived Areas has removed a number of deprived rural areas from the list of deprived areas, and the question here is, have Mr. Basharati and the experts yet visited the area, and sought the views of the officials? What is being discussed is, so far how much credit has been allocated to these areas?

'Esa Moqadamizad, Deputy From Shadegan

The day 22 Bahman showed that the nation can guard the values of the revolution forever.

'Esa Moqadamizad, deputy from Shadegan, was the third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's session.

The deputy from Shadegan cited the failure to purify the waters of the Karun from toxic and harmful substances as one of the problems in his electoral district. He said: In summer the smell of sewage assaults the deprived residents of Shadegan and it is therefore necessary to make more effort to prevent further pollution, especially in the aforementioned season.

He said that the work of the Social Security Organization in the province of Khuzestan in the area of health care and treatment in the last 10 years has been weak, and he asked officials to take the necessary measures in this area.

'Esa Moqadamizad said that the suspension of construction on the Shadegan Railroad, the procurement of deeds and land loans for teachers, the creation of a teacher training school for sisters and an agricultural technical school, and the creation of a sugar cube and sugar factory in Darkhin are among the problems in his electoral district, and he asked the relevant officials to provide the necessary means to alleviate these problems. [passages omitted on anniversary of revolution]

Seyyed Kamal-ed Din Shahriari, Deputy From Dashti, Dayr, and Tangestan

In Bushehr the spread of poison and the cultural invasion by tens of foreign television and radio channels has not done the slightest damage to the solid ranks of the hezbollah people of that city.

The final pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Mr. Seyyed Kamal-ed Din Shahriari, deputy from Dashti, Dayr, and Tangestan, who said: At the beginning of the 15th springtime of freedom, in the last three days the people of Bushehr have been entertaining a dear guest they have been waiting to see for years. This dear guest, who was Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the respected president of the republic, on this trip visited the deprived areas of the province of Bushehr and visited and met with the suffering and tormented people of the province of Bushehr, which was the only area defending Islam and the independence of its country against foreign invasion, especially English imperialism.

With reference to the budget for 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994], he said: Praise God, after numerous studies, the 1372 Budget has been approved and sent to the government for implementation, but what the government must notice is that in view of the release of the foreign exchange rate, since there is no foreign exchange ration, there may be problems with giving foreign exchange to the various organizations, in view of the unspecified priorities. In order to prevent an interruption, it is better that greater care be exercised.

He emphasized the need to preserve the value of the rial in the coming year, and noted: In view of the Money and Banking Law, this responsibility has been assigned to the Central Bank. It is hoped that in the coming year the value of domestic money will be well preserved against foreign currencies. The respected Council of Guardians must be thanked for preventing excessive government use of banking facilities in the 1372 Budget.

He continued: In view of the fact that floods, like earthquakes and other events, are no longer unexpected and there are ways to prevent and contain them, with the proper planning we must not permit such damage to be done to any of these several places again. The provinces are without refuge and have lost all of their being and economic capabilities, and their lives are in danger. Unfortunately, despite all of these interviews, no help of any kind has been given to the flood-stricken people of Ramhormoz. What has been damaged in this flood includes oil and gas pipelines. This subject itself should be studied, and the weakness of the Ministry of Petroleum, with all its foreign exchange and rial credits and the resources it has available, is visible right here. In the Ramhormoz area a million barrels of oil is produced daily, but all the people get is the smoke from the oil wells and the destruction of their agricultural land. The Ministry of Petroleum even collects scrap metal there and uses it haphazardly after it is sold.

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Petroleum to study and pay for the losses caused to farms and residential areas by oil spills and oil installations. Is it right that a people who are living on top of an oil field are even deprived of simple drinking water, while other cities spend billions of rials in credits on drinking water alone?

He also said: During the imposed war the cities of the province of Khuzestan, because of their entanglement with the war, not only lacked resources, but the burden of the war and emigrant forces were added to their problems, while the provinces that were not afflicted by the war continued with their development and expansion. [passages omitted on the anniversary of the revolution, the floods, airplane crash]

He added: His unequaled decisions concerning the alleviation of deprivation in the province show the breadth of his vision and foresight. /**His visit to the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant and his serious determination to complete it**/, the utilization of the great water delivery pipeline in the Moharram project, the ground breaking at the Ra'is 'Ali Delvari Dam in Dashtestan, the official start of study for the Shiraz-Bushehr railway in continuing the study of the Esfahan-Shiraz Railway, and the beginning of the Kangan Gas Power Station and tens of other things show his concern for deprived areas, for the development of the nation's southern ports, and for raising the region's economic, social, cultural and political level.

Ratifications

Motion on How To Make Up Credit Shortages for Buildings in 129 Cities

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the report from the Plan and Budget Commission on the proposed law on How to Make Up

Shortages of Credits Needed and How to Complete the Nation's Buildings in 129 Cities.

In discussing this motion, a member of the Plan and Budget Commission said: Since we designated the executive financial resources for this hospital last week in the 1993 Budget Bill, I do not think there is any need to continue discussing this proposed law.

After comments from the commission, the general form of the bill was put to a vote and approved.

Bill To Make Use of Competent Accounting Services

The second item on the agenda was the report from the first consultation of the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission concerning the rejection of the Bill To Make Use of Competent Specialist and Professional Accounting Services as Official Accountants.

The reasons for the rejection of this bill by the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission are:

1. The accounting for companies, especially government companies, comes under the heading of government supervision of the legal performance of companies, and it is not in our interest to turn that task over the private sector.

2. The formation of private accounting institutions, which is a significant subject, is expressed in this law in the form of a note, and the limitations, rules and responsibilities of these institutions are not clarified in any way.

3. According to its charter, the Accounting Organization can already use private sector services, and accept the responsibility for it. In the aforementioned bill responsibility is taken away from the Accounting Organization.

After comments by the expert from the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission, deputies supporting and opposing this bill spoke and then the minister of economic and financial affairs defended the government bill and said concerning this bill:

We are now in a situation where the economic institutions are growing every day, and according to existing statistics, we have 88,000 to 100,000 companies in the country, and likewise the budget ceiling for government companies for the year 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993] was about 11,000 billion rials, but that figure reached more than 24,000 billion in the year 1372.

Dr. Nurbakhsh added: If the Majles does not reject the general form of this bill, we will come to an understanding over the details. The vacuum that now exists, in view of the government's new policies, and the danger that threatens the rights of the people, are too great for us to worry and say for example that you have given the accounting for government companies over to them, now completely eliminate it. We are not concerned about that. The bill's essential message is aimed at protecting the public interest and protecting the owners of capital.

In conclusion the minister of economic and financial affairs said: We recommend that you defend the public interest, in order that regulations will prevail. There are now no regulations. Under the Commerce Law most shareholders can choose legal inspection under which there are no conditions in terms of the conditions that this legal inspection has. After Dr. Nurbakhsh's comments, the general form of the bill was put to a vote and approved.

Bill To Form the Iran-Pakistan Shipping Company

The next item on the agenda was the report from the second consultation on the Bill To Form the Iran-Pakistan Shipping Company, of which Article 1 was approved by the deputies.

Article 1: The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company is authorized to form the Iran-Pakistan Shipping Company.

Note 1: The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company must, in cooperation with the Pakistani side, prepare the charter for the aforementioned company based on the Commerce Law and its amendment of the year 1347 [21 Mar 1968-20 Mar 1969], and then implement it after its approval by the Council of Ministers.

Note 2: As of the date of this law's enactment, the Law Forming the Iran-Pakistan Shipping Company enacted on 7/18/1364 [10 Oct 1985] is cancelled.

Motion To Procure Credits Needed to Compensate Areas in the Nation Damaged by Disasters

The final item on the agenda was the Motion To Procure Credits Needed To Compensate Areas in the Nation Damaged by Disasters, which was presented as an urgent motion.

In explaining the motion's proposed urgent status, Khoda Karim Jalali said: In the 1372 Budget in Paragraph 6 we have only provided 9 billion tomans for unexpected disasters and their prevention. We need at least 20 billion tomans to pay for the losses of past years, which will only rebuild the public institutions.

In the flood of the months of Dey [22 Dec-20 Jan] and Bahman, which damaged 11 provinces, the Ministry of the Interior estimates that 32 billion tomans will be needed.

He added: It is recommended in this motion that 15 billion tomans from Note 22 of the Budget Bill be given to the Ministry of the Interior and the Unexpected Disasters Staff.

After remarks by opponents and supporters, the motion's urgent status was put to a vote and approved.

Letter From More Than 140 Deputies to the Majles Speaker Concerning the Recent Aircraft Crash

More than 140 deputies wrote a letter to the speaker of the Majles offering condolences on the damage done by the aircraft crash, and likewise warned the relevant officials about following up on this disaster. The text of the letter from the deputies is as follows:

Your Holiness Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Nateq-Nuri, respected speaker of the Majles, the fatal air accident and the crash of the passenger aircraft on God's day 19 Bahman [8 February] this year, which killed many of our compatriots, as the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution said, wounded our hearts and brought tears to our eyes.

We Majles deputies offer condolences from the bottom of our hearts for this great loss, unprecedented in passenger air travel, to the patient nation of Iran, to the survivors of the lost dear ones, and especially to His Holiness the addressee, who lost 10 relatives in this terrifying accident, and we ask almighty God to grant patience and a great reward to everyone.

We earnestly appeal to all relevant officials to study this sad accident and to take serious measures to prevent these kinds of accidents, so that we will not see the loss of the lives of a number of people and the waste of public funds for various reasons. The deputies of the Majles have not taken this matter lightly and they will fulfill their lawful responsibility.

Majles Notes

Following the approval of the motion to "Nullify the Decrees of the Administrative Justice Court Which Were Violations of the Temporary Cultivation Law of 1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987] for the Benefit of Landowners," on 29 Dey this year [19 Jan] by the Majles, a number of farmers from the province of Lorestan supported this measure by the deputies in a petition sent to the Majles.

The text of the above petition, which is about 5 meters long, is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty

Respected Majles deputies,

With greetings and respect, while announcing our support and renewed allegiance to the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Khamene'i (may God prolong his life), the arrival of the happy news of the approval of the legal motion declaring the opinions issued by the seven-person councils and their central staff to be exempt from revision by the judicial authorities, and nullifying the decrees issued by the aforementioned authorities (with regard to lands under temporary cultivation), brought happiness and joy to rural people exasperated by the suppression and cruelty of the laws and the landowner leeches, and made them hopeful for their future. [passage omitted on words of gratitude]

* 17 Feb

93LA0005A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Feb 93 p 5

[Excerpts] **Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held a session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Ruhani presiding, and the deputies from Tehran, Bandar 'Abbas, Jiroft, and Tabriz made speeches. Also, in a speech, the deputy speaker of the Majles honored 29 Bahman [18 Feb], the anniversary of the uprising of the people of Tabriz. Then the Majles went into session. Now, we call to the attention of the readers the details of the Majles discussions.**

Statements of the Deputy Speaker of the Majles

[Passages omitted on Dr. Hasan Rohani's statements praising the revolutionary people of Azerbaijan]

Seyyed 'Ali Ghayuni, the deputy of the people of Tehran, was the first pre-agenda speaker. In his speech, he referred to recent events, especially the flooding in some regions, and said: I have calculated that in the past few years I have received an average of 40 or 50 million tomans per month from our beloved leader for aid to the damaged areas. [passages omitted on the floods and government aid]

Gholam'abbas Za'eri, Deputy From Bandar 'Abbas

Za'eri, the deputy from Bandar 'Abbas: The people want the Majles to have a decisive presence in the important affairs of the country. The Majles must not be confined to bills and proposals.

The next speaker was Gholam'abbas Za'eri, from Bandar Abbas, who said in his speech: In the ruckus of fire is the presence of the people. The people want the Majles to have a decisive presence in the important affairs of the country. The Majles must not be confined to only the bills and proposals offered, some of which do not solve any problems. The Majles must, with all its might, supervise the issues in the country. The Majles must use all existing resources and leverage to defend the rights of the people. The recent events that have pained the hearts of the grand leader and the Muslim people of Iran must be seriously investigated and pursued in order to punish the perpetrators and the guilty most severely. The Fourth Majles must pay its debt by choosing the best people to serve in the government, devoid of any ideology and only for God. The Majles has a duty of trustworthiness. [passages omitted on republic's revolution and the floods]

Zadsar, Deputy From Jiroft

While the noble and flood-stricken people of Jiroft have suffered severe casualties and financial damage, they held the largest march on 22 Bahman [11 February]. [passages omitted on the floods]

Fakhrtaj Amir-Shaqaqi, Deputy From Tabriz

The most important problems of the young people in the country are the problems of marriage, jobs, and housing.

Fakhrtaj Amir-Shaqaqi, the deputy from Tabriz, was the last pre-agenda speaker of yesterday's session, who honored 29 Bahman 1356 [18 Feb 1978] and said: If the beloved people of our country picked the fruit of the tree of revolution on 22 Bahman 1357 [11 Feb 1979], the heroic people of Tabriz planted its sapling on 29 Bahman 1356, and today, even though no great effort is made by the officials to honor this great day, this did not cast a cloud of despair on the hearts of the brave people of Azerbaijan.

Stating that the gravest concern of the Majles in the future will be the careful and profound study of the second Five-Year Plan, she pointed out: The first issue is the use of the valuable experiences of the first Five-Year Plan in the second Five-Year Plan. The second Five-Year Plan must be devised in such a way that while the shortcomings of the first Five-Year Plan are corrected, the strong points of the First Plan are stressed and doubled. In this connection, I propose that a committee comprised of several members of the Cabinet, Majles deputies, and economic planners be formed to take charge of these two important issues.

First, the general strategies of the first Five-Year Plan should be clarified in order to determine how successful it has been, to what extent it has reached its goals, and what strategies must be omitted or added in order to devise the second Five-Year Plan.

For example, it seems that in the second Five-Year Plan, more attention has been paid to privatization, the level of success of which alone and without the help of strategies appears to be difficult to determine. Privatization by itself and without parallel strategies, for instance, the collective market, would not be beneficial.

The second issue that the above-mentioned committee must deal with is the level of access to the determined goals. It must be precisely clarified what fraction of the goals have been achieved, what weak and strong points have concerned the programs, or whether other problems have existed. In any case, the committee can assist in the devising of the second Five-Year Plan by examining all the factors.

In continuation, the deputy from Tabriz pointed out: Another issue concerning the programs is the length of the plan. Hence, we must know that the existence of quality and not quantity factors in the economic planning restricts its power of projection and subsequently, reduces the calculation of its success. Since the deficiency in the planning of economic issues can be compensated by reducing the length of time, I propose that in regards to the length of time of the plan, more careful discussion be made, because neglecting the issue could result in irreparable harm. Another point concerning economic planning is that these programs can be implemented only once, therefore, I ask for the careful attention of the officials.

Fakhrtaj Amir-Shaqaqi, in continuation, requested that the president travel to Tabriz and asked the head of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency to help two groups of suspended employees, those with high-school diplomas and those with lower degrees, to encourage this hard-working stratum in the society.

The deputy from Tabriz also asked the government and the Majles to pay special attention to fighting inflation, to supporting the vulnerable strata of the society, and to paying the necessary attention to the families of the martyrs, the missing in action, the prisoners of war, the self-sacrificers, the freed prisoners of war, and the mobilization forces.

She opined: One of the most important issues is attention to education and support for the dear teachers, who play a significant role in helping the hidden talents of the young generation, who are the builders of the future of the Islamic country, to blossom.

She added: One of the unfortunate issues is that the government seems to have forgotten the retired people, and so far nothing has been thought of to improve the condition of these dear ones. I hope the government and the Majles will resolve the problem of the retired people as soon as possible.

The deputy from Tabriz considered resolving the problems of the young people in the country and the problems of marriage, employment, and housing among the most important problems of the society and in conclusion mentioned the continuation of the Qazvin-Tabriz highway, completion of the Tabriz water outreach, development of the Tabriz petrochemical and power plant, creation of job-generating factories for unemployed youth, and solving the problem of Tabriz factories as the most important problems of her constituency.

Letter of More Than 180 Majles Deputies in Support of the Execution Decree of Salman Rushdie

A letter signed by 180 deputies in support of the execution decree against the traitor, Salman Rushdie, was read in the open session of the Majles yesterday.

With every day that passes since the issuance of the historical decree of the Imam concerning the execution of the heretic Salman Rushdie, the West realizes its strategic mistake in insulting Islam and its revered Prophet. The Westerners, by provoking and setting forth traitors such as Salman Rushdie, wanted to test the Islamic world to see how steadfast the people are with regard to their religious values. The issuance of the decisive decree of the late Imam and the support of the Islamic world for it forced the West to react hastily and to recall its ambassadors from the Islamic Republic of Iran. But after a short period of time, they realized that Islam is not a weak willow to be shaken by such materialistic noise by the Westerners.

As long as Noah is your ship captain, do not worry about the storm.

Another mistake that the West made was the repetition of this ridiculous event after the death of the Imam, thinking that the conditions had changed. The imam-like roaring of the grand leader of the revolution on the anniversary of the issuance of the execution of Salman Rushdie once again woke the West up from sleep and made it react. We, the deputies of the Majles, deeply believe that the arrow that the late Imam released will sooner or later pierce the black heart of the traitor, Salman Rushdie, and kill him. Today, Muslims have awakened with the blessing of Islam and shall not allow the values of Islam to be insulted.

Ratifications

The proposal for the financial, accounting, and transactional bylaws of the National Accounting Office.

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was a report on the first round of discussions of the Accounting Office in regards to the proposal for the financial, accounting, and transactional bylaws of the National Accounting Office, of which the general points were ratified.

Bill on Separating the Tea Organization From the Ministry of Commerce

The second item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions of the bill amending the separation of the National Tea Organization from the Ministry of Commerce and attaching it to the Ministry of Agriculture, of which the single article and note were ratified as follows.

Single article. The law on separating the National Tea Organization from the Ministry of Commerce and attaching it to the Ministry of Agriculture ratified on 19/12/68 [3 Mar 1990] is amended as follows:

1. The phrase "except for trade and distribution affairs" shall be omitted from the text of the single article of the law and the word "trade" from the text of its note.

2. Note 1 of the single article shall be changed as follows:

Note 1. The Tea Organization shall be responsible to distribute all dry tea through the cooperative companies or the private sector or directly, on necessary occasions as determined by the Cabinet.

Note 2. The Tea Organization shall be responsible to buy green tea leaves from tea planters at the set government price and convert it in the tea drying factory.

Every year the Ministry of Agriculture shall determine the production surplus and issue permits to export that amount of tea, provided the importer is obliged to purchase Iranian tea in an amount as set by the Tea Organization for consumption or direct sale.

The Law on Use of the Opinion of Traffic Officers in Vehicular Accidents

The next item on the agenda was the bill to attach one note to the single article of the law on the use of the opinion of traffic police officers in vehicular accidents, of which the general points were ratified.

The single article of this bill states: "The following phrase shall be attached as a note to the single article of the law on the use of the opinion of traffic police officers in vehicular accidents ratified in 1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1986].

Note: Judicial authorities in regards to investigating the cases of stolen vehicles or identification of vehicles in which some changes (in engine, chassis, and cabin) have been made may make use of the opinion of working technical expert officers in law enforcement without need to pay for their services.

Revoking the Legislative Bill To Confiscate Bank Notes Entering the Country

The fourth item on the agenda was the report on the first round of discussions of the Economic Affairs and Finance Committee concerning the bill to revoke the legislative bill to confiscate bank notes entering the country. Mohammad Reza Bahonar, the spokesman of the Economic Affairs and Finance Committee said in regards to this bill: The entry and exit of our national currency and our national paper money early in the revolution was restricted by the honorable Revolution Council in a law that revised the monetary and banking law of the country ratified in 1351 [21 Mar 1972-20 Mar 1973]. The reason was that early in the revolution the issue of smuggling the rial from the country to other countries and the uncontrolled entry of the rial to our country from abroad (both real and forged) had created problems. Hence, the Revolution Council ratified a law in 1359 [21 Mar 1980-20 Mar 1981] that created restrictions. These restrictions were imposed at about 20,000 rials.

Bahonar added: At present, the currency of our country is finding its place, and the entry and exit of the rial must become easier and not create problems. Of course, it should not be absolutely free. There are monetary and banking laws and regulations and those regulations can be imposed. Hence, the government requests the revocation of the bill of the single article by the Revolution Council that the committee has ratified precisely.

After opposing and supporting speeches, the general points of the bill were put to a vote and ratified.

Bill on Exempting National Buildings From Municipal Taxes

The report on the second round of discussions of the Economic Affairs and Finance Committee in regards to the bill to exempt buildings and places that have been

registered as national sites from the payment of municipal taxes was the next item on the agenda, the single article of which was ratified by the deputies.

Single article: All historical buildings, places, and areas that are used or are in the possession of the National Cultural Heritage Organization and buildings and places that are used or are in the possession of actual or legal persons and in accordance with related laws are registered or will be registered in the list of national Iranian buildings and also museums controlled by the above-mentioned organization shall be exempt from all municipal taxes.

Bill on Amending Some Articles of the Social Security Law

The sixth item on the agenda was the report on the second round of discussions of the Health and Welfare Committee concerning the bill to amend Articles 72 and 77 and the note to Article 76 of the social security law ratified in 1354 [21 Mar 1975-20 Mar 1976] and the attachment of one note to it as follows was ratified.

Single article. The social security law is amended as follows:

A. The ratio of 1/35 of the average wage or salary of the insured cited in Article 2 of the law is changed to a ratio of 1/30.

B. The note to Article 76 is amended as follows, and one note, as Note 2, is added to it.

Note 1. In the case of individuals who requested retirement prior to the revolution and have worked at lease 20 consecutive years or 25 alternate years in harsh climate areas or who have had difficult and health-threatening (harmful) jobs as well as those who have worked for a full 30 years and who have in all cases paid the insurance premium for the above-mentioned period to the organization, if the age of the man is a full 50 years and the woman a full 45 years, they can request retirement pay. Bad climate areas and difficult, harmful jobs shall be subject to the related bylaws.

Note 2. Insured persons who have paid a full 35 years of insurance premium may request retirement without the requirement of age stated in the law.

C. Article 77 is amended as follows:

Article 77. The retirement pay consists of one-third of the average wages or salary of the insured multiplied by the number of years in which the insurance premium has been paid, provided it would not exceed 1/35 of the average of wages or the insurance premium.

Note. The average wage or salary for calculating retirement pay consists of the total wages or salary of the insured, on the basis of which he has been insured within the last year of the premium, multiplied by 24.

Proposal To Issue Deeds of Lands Subject to Land Reform in Villages

Report on the first round of discussions of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Committee concerning rejecting the "legislative proposal to issue the deeds of lands subject to the land reform in villages and eligible cities" was the last item on the agenda, the examination of which was postponed to the next session. The spokesman of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Committee pointed out the reasons for rejecting the proposal by the Committee as follows:

1. One of the most important reasons to prepare the above-mentioned proposal was the number presented for banking services to the farmers of such lands. With the preparations made by the officials of the executive organizations, at the present, the personal loans will be paid.

2. The major portion of transferred land has been in the form of joint ownership and the partition of the plots for determining the boundaries will cause the division of lands to small plots and their likely conversion. This is contrary to the policies of revitalizing the agricultural sector.

3. Considering the ratification of 21/6/1370 [12 Sep 1991] of the Majles concerning Article 147 of the registration law, there is no need for a new law, and at the present time, owners can request ownership deeds on the basis of the contents of the above-mentioned article in the Registration Office.

It must be mentioned that this proposal was unanimously rejected by the Agricultural Committee of the Majles.

* 23 Feb

93L00006A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Feb 93 pp 5, 6

[Excerpt] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles held a session yesterday with Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq Nuri presiding. The deputies from Ahvaz, Torqabeh and Chenaran, Zarand, and Baft made speeches. Then the Majles went into session.

We call the reader's attention to the details of the Majles discussions.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Deputy From Ahvaz

Reducing the relations between clients and officials, which is one of the basic causes of bribery, is necessary.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, the deputy from Ahvaz, who referred to the blessed month of Ramazan and said: Thank God for having made fasting a means to correct faults and give up sinning and assigning the blessed month of Ramazan to cleanse the body and soul of human beings from the pollution of sin.

In another part of his speech, he then said: Today, one of the basic problems of the Islamic revolution about which all members of the society, and perhaps everyone, agrees is the bureaucratic system and its organization and methods and the replacement of regulations with relationships. If something is not done about it, it will be like a bone lodged in the throat of the revolution and will create problems every day. The beloved people truly comment, how much time must they waste and how long should they be kept in suspense to get one bureaucratic task accomplished?

He added: Can anyone respond correctly to this question of the people? And what should be done? The chain of bureaucracy must be removed from the hands and feet of the administrative system, and the doors of hope must be opened to the clients. He referred to the elimination of cumbersome regulations such as the issuance of birth certificates and pointed out: Experience has shown us that if we want to, and we have the courage and will, we can reform the postal system, which, as a part of the bureaucratic system, can play the role of an important tool and factor in reducing visits to officers and facilitate the administrative relationship with the society. Unfortunately, in our bureaucratic system, this is a missing link, or a very weak one.

He added: Creating a system of selection of employees on the basis of competence, the absence of which has caused every manager or official to lean towards partisanship and consequently, instead of using committed and expert people, individuals hire their friends and yes-men. The result has been a slowdown in the work of the administrative system.

Emphasizing the reform of the administrative system by the Fourth Majles, he said: The backwardness and the direct and indirect damages of the war have caused many problems for Khuzestan, particularly Ahvaz.

He added: Khuzestan, which has resources and advanced oil and natural gas facilities and energy transfer lines, has problems on its shoulders that are less often seen in other provinces. In 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994], the population of Khuzestan will reach 3.5 million, and we will need about 195,000 new jobs. At the present time, the rate of unemployment is 22.1 percent of the active population of the province of Khuzestan, which is at the end of the competitive chart.

He emphasized: Is it fair that in carrying out national projects, such as the Ahvaz sugarcane project, which is supposed to resolve a percentage of the unemployment problem, instead of using native forces who have lost their farmland for the implementation of the project, we see the employment of a labor force from distant places?

In conclusion, the deputy from Ahvaz made a reminder to the minister of roads and transports concerning the start of the operation of the flight of the Hajj pilgrims of the Province of Khuzestan from that city and to the minister of education concerning attention to education, which has been abandoned in this province.

Ahmad Moradi, Deputy From Toqebeh and Chenaran

The next speaker was Ahmad Moradi, the deputy from Torqebeh and Chenaran. [passages omitted on the revolution and Islam]

He added: The grave responsibility of being a deputy requires that when any sort of action contrary to the law and contrary to the value standards of the revolution is observed, with sound, constructive, and beneficial criticism, assistance be given to the executive organization and it be informed regarding their actions concerning the affairs of the society.

The honorable deputies must continue their unceasing efforts to revitalize the supervisory duty of the Majles, because careful and overall supervision of the Majles over the officials and executive organizations and how the public property and the treasury of the Muslims is spent truly supports the government to prevent waste and luxury and guarantees the progress of the essential programs of the government. Honorable deputies and president, pay attention to the young people in the country during the time of the cultural invasion by the global oppressors. The young people today are the heirs of tomorrow's Iran. More precise and in-depth attention must be paid to their problems. A large section of the young people in the country have no role in the society. The Supreme Council for the Youth, which has been established with the efforts of the president, is mostly official and theoretical. I suggest that in order to implement the policies and proposed methods of this council, a strong executive organization called the National Youth Organization be established to bring clear rules and order to the execution of the affairs of the youth. Unfortunately, the National Physical Education Organization, which is mostly concerned with the physical issues of the youth, is very weak and can by no means respond to the increasing needs of the young people in the Islamic society.

Also, no policy has been made by the officials of the Physical Education Organization for this purpose. If serious attention is not paid to the athletic issues and the position and status of Islamic Iran is weakened in sports, such would present us to the world as less than we are.

Then, concerning his constituency, he pointed out: The city of Chenaran, with a population of 140,000 people, is located northwest of Mashhad and includes 300 villages, which according to the indices of the Plan and Budget Organization are recognized and ratified as deprived villages. The farmers of Chenaran this year, with several strategic products, such as wheat, barley, and beets, have ranked first in the province in terms of orchards and fruit production, providing about half the fruit in the province.

He referred to the only hospital in Chenaran, which lacks any sort of health and services resources and said: The most important problem of the people of Chenaran is the

lack of an office of documents and property deeds registration, and 70 percent of the educators in this city come from Mashhad.

He thanked the minister of justice for the establishment of an independent court in Chenaran, the Khorasan Regional Water Organization for expediting the water outreach operations in Torqebeh, and the minister of agriculture in connection with granting loans to those who suffered losses due to hail this year.

In conclusion, he emphasized: Considering the number and scattered nature of Chenaran villages, there seems to be a vital need for 24-hour centers, the creation of suitable educational space, and attention to the problems of educators.

'Ali Motahhari, Deputy From Zarand

The march on 22 Bahman [11 Feb] warmed the hearts of the officials who are lovingly engaged in service and efforts and increased the burden of their responsibility.

The third pre-agenda speaker in the open session of the Majles yesterday was 'Ali Motahhari, the deputy from Zarand. [passages omitted on the revolution, Ramazan, and the killing of Muslims throughout the world]

Ahmad Pishbin, Deputy From Baft [passages omitted on the destruction of the floods and the affirmation of Salman Rushdie's death sentence]

Ratification

Question of the Deputy From Mahneshan to the Minister of Post and Telephone

The first item on the agenda was the question of Reza 'Abdollahi, the deputy from Mahneshan, to the minister of post, telegraph and telephone, who read his questions as follows:

What was the number of telephones in the ratified program to transfer telephones to the people in the first Five-Year Plan? How many have been transferred in the first three years? And, in total, how many switches have been purchased from abroad or produced domestically? Has this number been used or not? On the basis of what permission or authority and according to which plan was the purchase of 6.5 million switches put up for bids, and how far along is the work?

Response of the Minister

Engineer Gharazi, in response to the questions of the deputy from Mahneshan, pointed out: When the first Plan was discussed, all the people who were informed about telephone sales in the country cited 100,000 telephones annually and 500,000 telephones for the Five-Year Plan. We said that there is a potential for much more in the country. First, there was talk about 500,000 and 600,000. Considering the positive actions in the past prior to the plan, the national officials were to accept 1.1 million telephones from us. The number of 1.1 million telephones was ratified. Today, the argument is, What number was transferred in the first three years? So far, about 1 million telephones have been transferred, of which up to today (Esfand [20 Feb-20 Mar]) we have delivered 500,000 telephones.

Eng. Gharazi added: In connection with the switches, they were ordered by Communications Company 13. Some have started since the beginning of 1366 [21 Mar 1987], some in 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989], and some in 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990], and so on. Absolute purchases from abroad number 491,500, most of which have entered the country. The absolute domestic production in the order is 794,500. We are a very large producer in communications, producing 1,709,000 domestically. But 50 percent is domestic and 50 percent is foreign. What number of switches have been purchased domestically and from abroad? The total is 3,200,000. In terms of what number has been used, 1,067,044 have been transferred from the beginning of 1368, up to Dey [22 Dec-20 Jan] it was 1,508,000, in other words, within 46 months. Within 60 months (the end of the first Plan), we will install all of it, that is, if the conductors are provided.

Explanation of the Question of the Deputy From Mahneshan

Reza 'Abdollahi then, in a speech, explained his question: My main argument is that we ratify a law and announce it to the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone and specify that you should transfer 100,000 telephones, whereas you purchased 3,200,000. But the figures that were placed at the disposal of the Energy Committee state about 3.7 million. Considering that it was pointed out that by the end of 1371 [20 Mar 1993], the coefficient will reach 5.8, my question is, if the plan law has stated 1.1 million, how was the number changed to 2.8 million? Hence, we can conclude that in the figures that were presented in the writing of the plan, it was stated that $2,000 in foreign currency would be used. With every line using $3,000, it would be impossible to procure and install 3.7 million. Hence, we conclude that the figures and statistics that were presented to the national planners, the officials, and the Majles on the basis of the use of $2,000 in foreign currency per line were not correct.

He then added: By the end of 1371, the maximum number of installed telephones, contrary to the statistics, will be 3.6 million. Calculating that we had 2,100,000 at the start of the program, the figure for installation will reach 1.5 million.

In other words, about 2.2 million telephones have been purchased and remain unused. This stagnation of capital will raise the cost of telephones, which will burden the people. Among the 76 countries in which the primary cost of telephone transfers to the people has been studied, the Iranian Communications Company is the most expensive company in 76 countries.

It is such operation that forces our people to purchase telephones at the highest cost and the lowest quality (interruption of communications, late ringing, line interference, etc.) and have to put up with it.

The deputy from Mahneshan added: Most of the purchases of the Communications Company have been from abroad. The amount of $472 million has been put at the disposal of the production sector, most of which is allocated to the purchase of semimanufactured and manufactured switches from two factories, Siemens and F.B.R. Now, the R.T.N.T. Factory in Shiraz, which is our largest manufacturer of digital switches, and also I.N.D., are facing recession and their employees are worried. And if, out of concern, the director general of the factory says: "Do not make these purchases from abroad and allow domestic production to take place," he is dismissed. Another director, out of concern, questions the purchases that are made from Siemens, with whom a contract is signed without bidding, the same Siemens that disrupted Tehran communications at the University Center, and no action is taken. Why are the ratified opinions of the concerned experts and concerned directors not accepted?

Response of the Minister of Post, Once Again

Again, in response to the above-mentioned questions, Eng. Gharazi said: All that has been imported has been installed. Now, there are 300,000 telephones in the factories. By no means have purchases been made that have gone through all the stages [as published]. I counted 20 other questions that were raised. I request of the honorable Majles, for every year that I have been in the ministry, give me one hour to answer one of the questions.

He added: In 1385 [21 Mar 2006-20 Mar 2007], the population of the country will reach more than 80 million. In that year, the country will need to have 20 million telephone lines. Let me say that the telephone service is the least expensive service in comparison with other services. We have plans for 20 million telephone lines. In order to be able to succeed in giving telephones to the people at the start of the second Plan, we should have started four years earlier.

In conclusion, because the deputy from Mahneshan was not satisfied, the question was sent to the Investigating Questions Committee.

Proposal of the Students' Welfare Fund

The second item on the agenda was a report on the second round of discussions of the joint Culture, Research and Higher Education and Health and Welfare Committee concerning the legislative proposal for the Students' Welfare Fund, the articles of which were ratified as follows.

Article 1. In order to create firm grounds for the growth of the talents and to aid the educational and living conditions of talented and low-income students in the county, a fund called the "Students' Welfare Fund," which will be called the Fund in this law, will be established in each of the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment and Medical Education.

Note 1. All the property of the present student funds, including movable and immobile, shall be estimated, converted, and divided in proportion to the number of existing students between the welfare funds of the abovementioned ministries under the supervision of a committee appointed by the ministers of culture and higher education; health, treatment and medical education; and economic affairs and finance.

Note 2. Each nongovernmental university also can, in accordance with the regulations in this law, establish a student welfare fund.

The Note to Article 2 states: The amount and procedure for payment of loans and aid for educational expenditures shall be approved by the board of trustees of the Fund and distributed fairly and equitably among students.

Article 3. The Fund shall be provided in the ministries from government aid, credit facilities of the banking system, revenues obtained from investing the excess funds, and gifts of actual and legal persons, funds from the return on installment payments of debtors, and rental fees for student dormitories.

Note: The Fund in the nongovernmental universities shall be provided from credit facilities of the banking system, gifts of actual and legal persons, and funds from the return on the payment of debtors.

Article 4. Every Fund shall be managed under the supervision of the board of directors with the following composition.

(1) The related minister (chairman of the board of trustees), (2) the director of the Plan and Budget Organization or his representative, (3) the minister of economic affairs and finance or his representative, (4) the deputy minister for student affairs of the related ministry, and (5) the director of the Fund (secretary of the board of trustees).

Note 1. The board of trustees of nongovernmental universities shall be comprised of the following persons.

(1) The president of the university (chairman of the board of trustees), (2) the financial vice president of the university, (3) the educational vice president of the university, (4) the vice president for student affairs of the university, (5) the director of the Fund (the secretary of the board of trustees).

Note 2. The director of the Fund shall be appointed upon the suggestion of the chairman and the approval of the board of trustees for four years and can be reappointed.

Note 3. The charter of the Fund shall include the duties and authority of the board of trustees, the duties of the director of the Fund, the financial affairs of the Fund, the regulations for the payment of living expense aid and

loans and the procedure for its collection and the necessary guarantee in this area upon the joint proposal of the ministers of culture and higher education and health, treatment and medical education and shall be approved by the Cabinet.

Note 4. The charter of the Fund of nongovernmental and nonprofit universities shall be proposed by the president of the university, with the approval of the board of trustees of that university.

Article 5. From the date of the ratification of this law, the law of the establishment of the Student Welfare Fund ratified on 17/05/1352 [8 Aug 1973] and other contrary laws are nullified.

Note: In order to prevent the stopping of affairs related to student welfare, until the ratification of the charter and the transfer to the proper authorities of the property mentioned in Note 1 to Article 1, the present welfare funds shall continue their work.

Return of the Bill on the Employment Situation of Self-Sacrificing Employees

The next item on the agenda was the government request regarding the return of the bill on the employment situation of the martyred, self-sacrificing, disabled, and missing-in-action employees of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war.

The government representative said in this regard: The Majles is expected to return this bill and within three months, and the related organizations to prepare a comprehensive bill in this connection and submit it to the honorable Majles in order to eliminate the problems of these dear ones.

After the opposing and supporting speeches, for the return of the above-mentioned bill, the bill was not passed and was refused.

Reform of the Presidential Election Law

The fourth item on the agenda was the reform of the presidential election law, which was discussed with a priority level of very urgent [double urgency].

Majid Ansari, the parliamentary deputy of the Ministry of Interior, said in regards to this bill: We are not very far away from the presidential elections, and the date announced by the Ministry of Interior that has been approved by the honorable Council of Guardians will be in Khordad 1372 [22 May-21 Jun 1993]. As you know, there are some ratifications and laws that, if not reformed, will cause problems. We have laws that must be reformed, among them regarding the refugees of the imposed war, about whom the law states that their refugee cards are sufficient as identification, whereas for all refugees who had lost their birth certificates during the imposed war, new birth certificates were issued, and today we have no refugees without birth certificates. There was the issue of receiving cards from soldiers and prisoners that has also been resolved. Most important, the reason it has been presented as urgent is that the system of holding the elections, especially the counting and reading of them, is done in our country in a traditional and fully manual method, and this causes many problems, including excessive delays in the announcement of the results.

He then said: Now, if the reading of the votes is not computerized, at least the reading of ballot cards should be done with computers. By doing this, precision in the counting and reading of votes will be very high. This issue requires the reform of some of the legislative articles because the basis for the reading of the ballot cards has been weak. With the new method, special centers will be assigned for reading the cards by the computer to which the ballot boxes are transferred.

Following the opposing and supporting speeches, the very urgent priority of the bill was put to a vote and ratified.

Legislative Proposal To Amend the Check Law

The report on the first round of discussions of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Committee concerning the legislative proposal to amend some articles of the check issuance law ratified in Tir 1355 [22 Jun-22 Jul 1976], of which the general points were ratified. 'Alavi, the spokesman of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Committee, said about this proposal: This proposal is one of the most important proposals that has been discussed in the Fourth Majles. One of the numerous problems that our judicial courts have, and you know about it, more or less, is the issue of writing checks with no funds.

In the three months of 1368 (from 22/08/1368 to 22/11/1368 [13 Dec 1989-11 Feb 1990], 12,097 complaints concerning unfunded checks were in the judicial branch and now our courts are mostly facing the issuance of such checks and cannot do anything. Once a check is issued on that day's date and at other times with other dates, if the check that is issued for that day is not paid on that day, it becomes a penal offense. But if it is issued for other days and is not paid, it becomes a legal offense.

The spokesman of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Committee pointed out in regards to the general points: In the general points, we have given four definitions in regards to checks: (1) normal checks, (2) certified checks, (3) guaranteed checks, and (4) traveler's checks.

On the Margins of the Majles [passages omitted on religion and Islam]

In the past two sessions, the Islamic Culture and Guidance Committee of the Majles has discussed the press and its activities in the society.

Dr. Hasan Kamran, the first deputy chairman of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Committee of the Majles, said in an interview with the parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT concerning the details of the discussions in recent meetings of the committee: In connection

with the press law, there are problems that necessitate revision, including the requirements for obtaining directorship of the press and also suitable and necessary dealings in connection with violations. In the recent meetings of the committee, these issues were discussed.

He pointed out: In these sessions that the concerned experts of the related ministries participated, the mission, rights, and limitations of the press, the qualifications of the applicants, and the procedures for the issuance of permits and related offenses were discussed. Dr. Kamran, who is the representative of the judicial branch in the Media Committee also said: In this meeting, a large number of publications were discussed, as well as the fact that a secret course of events sometimes infiltrates the domestic press and directs the cultural issues in the interests of the foreigners.

According to the ratification of the board of directors of the Majles, from 23/12/1371 to 14 Farvardin 1372 [14 Mar 1993-3 April 1993], the Majles will be closed.

One of the ratifications of the Majles yesterday was the ratification of the general points to amend some articles of the law of the issuance of checks, which is very important. Legal experts, judges, and officials have frequently announced that the check law of Tir 1355 requires overall and essential revising and it is better for the honorable Legal and Judicial Affairs Committee of the Majles, which has to take charge of reforming it, to seek the assistance of officials, legal experts, attorneys, judges, university professors, and bankers in order to evaluate various aspects of the law, to meet the needs of this most common tool of trade and transaction today, and to close the way to numerous deceptions in this way.

Request for the Interpellation of the Minister of Roads and Transport

The request for the interpellation of the minister of roads and transport by 40 deputies was announced in the open session of the Majles as having been received.

The reasons for interpellation are as follows:

1. The failure to use the existing resources of the country to create air safety in the country.

2. The reason for the crash of the Airtour Company plane on 19 Bahman [8 Feb] and the deaths of all on board.

3. The reason for the crash of the airplane leased by the Petrochemical Company and the deaths of all on board.

4. The reason for the unjustifiable change in the management of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airlines and the National Airlines Organization.

5. The reason for the crash of the passenger train in the province of Lorestan and the death of some of its crew.

6. The reason for the accident of the Mashhad-Tehran train in Varamin and the death of a number of its crew.

7. The failure to design and implement comprehensive transportation projects and prevent double loading and the failure to properly use the terminals.

8. The failure to make better use of the budgets for roads and transport and their concentration on the vital projects and operating them, consequently making most projects uneconomical, including the Imam Khomeyni International Airport and the expansion of the railroads and the failure to use nongovernment investments.

9. The inability to implement the law permitting the creation of highways with the assistance of banks and the nongovernmental sector.

10. The lack of safety to most main roads of the country and the creation of numerous accidents that, unfortunately, result in a significant number of deaths.

11. The creation of delays in the progress of construction operations to complete electricity for the airports and highways of the country.

It is interesting that the names of 39 interpellators are as follows: Ms. Behruzi, Karimi-Darivan, Mohammadi, Rasulinezhad, Mirkhalili, Rahimi Sanandaj, Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, Bahonar, Sho'leh Sa'di, Zare', Raja'i-Khorasani, Daneshyar, Mohammad Sa'id Ansari, 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, Akhtar Derakhshandeh, 'Abbaspur-Tehran, Nejabat, Hoseyni-Tehrani, Shar'i, Morteza Nabavi, Habibian, Kuhkan, Yusofpur, Saber, Dadvar, Damadi, Tavassoli, Ja'fari, Motahhari, Azheh'i, Yahyavi, Ms. Homayun Moqaddam, Zadsar, Mortazavi, Naderi, Mowlavi, Soleymani-Kangavar, Salek, and Ms. Datsjerdi.